



Revival and Renovation of Water Bodies Hara Teerthams

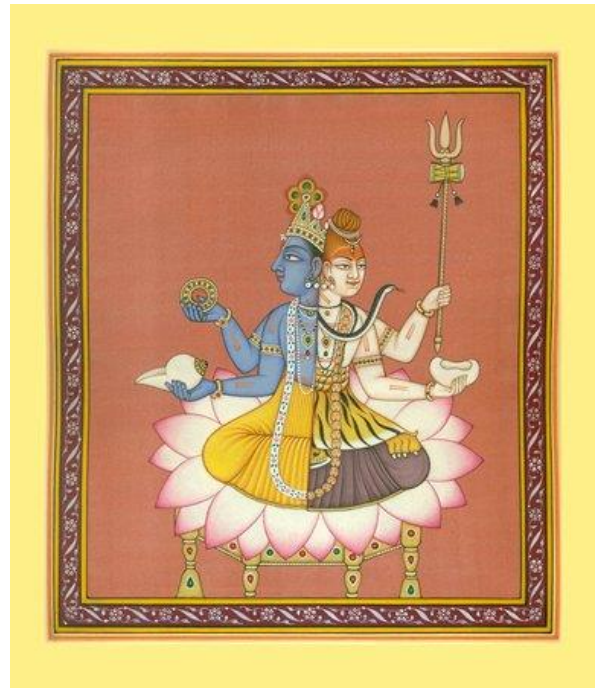
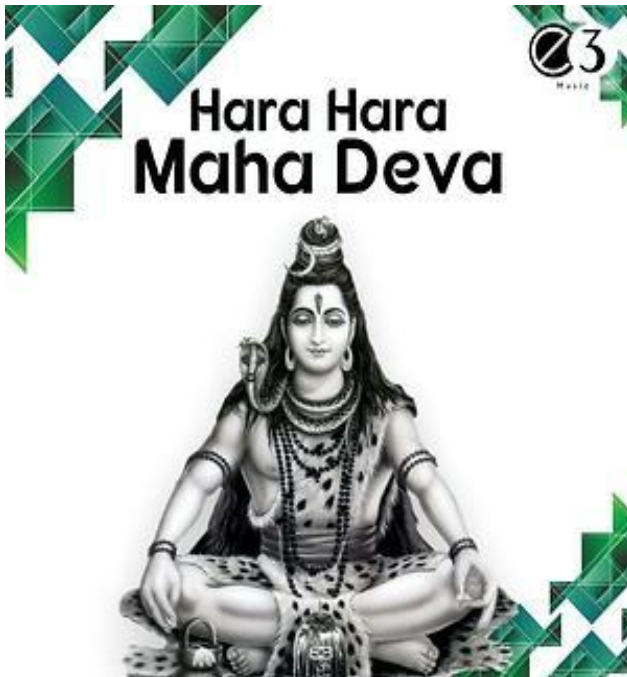


By
Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep

Prelude

Hara is one of the many names of Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism and the supreme deity in Shaivism. As Hara, Shiva is “the one who destroys evil.” On its own, *Hara* is a Sanskrit word that means “removing,” “taking away” and “destroyer.” Hara, represents the purifying power and paves the way for new creation and redemption on both the universal and personal levels. Hara destroys ignorance, illusion and evil, all imperfections that must be removed by one and all to continue one’s inner transformation and spiritual growth along the path to enlightenment.

Hara Teertham is one of the 108 Teerthams in Rameswaram as per Valmiki Ramayanam and Skanda Puranam. Hara is also one of the Vanara Chieftains of Sugreeva. There is another story which states that in order to get the blessings of Lord Shiva, Sugreeva’s Vanara Sena worshipped Lord Shiva after taking bath in Hara Teertham.



Hara Teertham Renovation Pooja

This Hara Teertham is located at Mankaadu village of Rameswaram. LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation, Mumabi has supported the renovation of this Traditional Water body. On 15th May 2019, Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep team organized the Pooja at Hara Teertham for starting the Renovation work. Following persons attended the function.

1. Shri.Maruthupandian, Tourist Officer, Ramanathapuram District
2. Shri.Muthursamy, Assistant Tourist Officer, Ramanathapuram District
3. Shri.Vasudeo, Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP
4. Ms.Sarah Brunwin, Director, Sacred Cities Programme, London
5. Smt.Sahaana, Hand in Hand India (Partner of Green Rameswaram Project)
6. Shri. Amuthasekaran, Managing Director, Hand in Hand India (Partner of Green Rameswaram Project)

50 Village elders, youths, women also participated in this Pooja along with Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP Teertha renovation team members.

Pooja was performed in a traditional way by praying Vinayaka and lighting the lamp followed by carrying out Pooja of Trowel and other equipment. Then all the participants prayed by offering flowers. Prasadam was distributed.

The village community offered the following help:

- Staying place for the construction workers in the village community hall.
- Drinking water will be provided from the community managed RO Water plant for the construction workers
- Construction materials storage can be done in the nearby houses and community hall

Photo Gallery



District Tourism Officer and Asst Tourism Office interacting with Sis. Saraswathi of Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP



Shri. Vasudeo and Ms. Sarah arriving at the function



Villagers lighting the lamp



Traditional Pooja is on



Coconut breaking



Construction worker doing pooja of Trowel - construction material



Stakeholders and guests praying for the success of the venture





Village Women performing Pooja by offering flowers



Village group posing for photograph

